

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1,2, and 4-9 are currently present in the Application, and claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 4, 6, and 8 have been amended, claims 10-30 have been cancelled, and no claims have been added. Applicants are not conceding in this Application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

In particular, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include limitations previously found in dependent claim 3 and Applicants have therefore canceled claim 3. Applicants therefore respectfully request that independent claim 1 and the claims which depend from them, be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Original claims 3-8, 13-18, and 23-29 were objected to as depending on rejected base claims but noted as allowable if rewritten to incorporate limitations of the base claim(s). In this Amendment, Applicants are pursuing the method claims (claims 1-9) and plan to file further continuation(s) to pursue the information handling system claims and the computer program product claims.

Claim Objections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Various informalities were noted in rejections under § 112 of claim language found in claims 1 and 3 (limitations of which are now incorporated in amended claim 1). Applicants have amended claim 1 addressing these informalities and, accordingly, respectfully request that the rejections under § 112 be withdrawn. In addition, the Office Action rejected claim 9 as allegedly including a limitation of "said allocated segment", without antecedent basis, however this limitation is not found in claim 9. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection as apparently being an erroneous rejection.

Claim Rejections - Alleged Anticipation Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,778 to Alfieri. Applicants note that the independent claim (claim 1) has been amended to include limitations found to be allowable in the Office Action. In particular, the limitations formerly found in claim 3 have been included in claim 1. Therefore the rejection of claim 1 as being allegedly anticipated by Alfieri is now moot. The remaining claims (claims 2, and 4-9) are allowable as being dependent, either directly or indirectly, on an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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